

J.C. Watts, Jr.  
Chairman  
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and  
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 3111—Exempting Certain Reports from Automatic Elimination and Sunset**

**H.R. 1714—Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act**

**H.R. 754—Made in America Information Act**

**H.R. 3122—Permitting Non-Congressional Federal Employees to Enroll Their Children in the House Child Care Center**

**H.R. 2303—History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act**

**H.R. 915—Authorizing Pay Adjustments for Administrative Law Judges**

**H.Con.Res. 194—Recognizing the Contributions of 4-H Clubs**



## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following seven bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 3111—Exempting Certain Reports from Automatic Elimination and Sunset** requires certain federal agencies to continue submitting approximately 50 reports. The 1995 Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act (*P.L. 104-66*) eliminated more than 200 congressionally-mandated reports on a variety of topics. It also terminates—on December 31, 1999—certain other annual, semi-annual, and other periodic reporting requirements. Among the reports slated for elimination are those related to the 1948 War Claims Act, the 1984 Child Protection Act, and the 1990 Immigration Act. The Judiciary Committee argues that the bill appropriately continues many reports that are critical to congressional oversight and government accountability. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hyde and was not considered by a House committee.

**H.R. 1714—Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce (E-SIGN) Act** establishes a single, nationwide standard for electronic signatures and records. Electronic signatures on digital documents assure a recipient of a document's origin and authenticity through digital codes specific to each party and ensures that a contract or agreement formed online has legal effect. The bill does not mandate a particular type of authentication nor does it specify the types of businesses that should be permitted to offer these services, leaving such decisions to the marketplace. Thus, the bill is designed to prohibit states from discriminating in favor of a specific type of electronic technology or the manufacturer of that technology. The bill managers may offer an amendment to make various changes to the bill, but details were unavailable at press time. CBO estimates that enactment will cost approximately \$1 million annually, subject to the availability of appropriations. The Commerce Committee reported H.R. 1714 by voice vote on August 5, 1999.

**H.R. 754—Made in America Information Act** authorizes the Commerce Secretary to establish a toll-free hotline for consumers to call to determine if a product is "Made in America," if sufficient interest among manufacturers exists to do so. If established, the Commerce Department will contract out the program to a private company. The bill uses the same definition for an American-made product that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) uses in determining uses of "Made in the USA" labels. Only those products with a sale price of \$250 or more will be included in the program. The toll-free hotline will be self-financed by imposing a modest annual registration fee on participating companies. Any manufacturer who registers a product as "Made in America" that does not meet the qualifications is subject to a fine of up to \$7,500. CBO estimates that enactment will not result in any significant net cost to the federal government because the bill authorizes the Commerce Department to establish fees to offset the costs of the toll-free hotline, subject to appropriations. The Commerce Committee reported the bill by voice vote on October 19, 1999.

**H.R. 3122** amends current law to allow children of other federal employees (non-legislative branch) to be enrolled in the House day care if room is available. This bill applies to children allowed for admission on or after the date of its enactment. The House child care center was founded 12 years ago to provide daycare for the children of House members and staff. It is currently filled to capacity with 55 children. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was introduced by Mr. Thomas *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

**H.R. 2303—History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act** authorizes the Library of Congress to commission historians to assemble a written history of the House of Representatives for members and staff as well as the general public. Under the bill, the recorded history will be chronological, narrative, and illustrated, and should include information on the creation of the House of Representatives (*i.e.*, the First and Second Continental Congresses). The recorded histories will then be provided to each House member and made available for sale to the general public, and is expected to be available in digital format via the Library's website. The measure authorizes the Library of Congress to determine whether the cost of the history should be paid for by sales or through private funding. A CBO estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was introduced by Mr. Larson *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

**H.R. 915—Authorizing Pay Adjustments for Administrative Law Judges** reforms the compensation process for administrative law judges (ALJ) by establishing maximum and minimum salaries for ALJs. The bill sets the highest pay level (AL-1) at Executive Level IV, and the lowest level (AL-3) at 65 percent of Executive Level IV. The current ALJ pay system sets each grade and step in the ALJ pay scale at a specific percentage of Executive Level IV. The bill replaces these fixed level percentages to allow for

greater compensation flexibility. The measure also gives the president the same authority to provide annual pay adjustments to ALJs that he now has for the Senior Executive Service (SES). CBO estimates that enactment will increase discretionary spending by \$3 million to \$6 million annually; however, any increases will depend on future congressional action regarding cost-of-living adjustments. The bill was introduced by Mr. Gekas *et al.* and was reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on September 30, 1999.

**H.Con.Res. 194—Recognizing the Contributions of 4-H Clubs** expresses the sense of Congress to commend and recognize 4-H Clubs and their members for their contributions to voluntary community service. The 4-H organization is funded principally by county governments, state land-grant universities, and the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). 4-H activities vary widely from state to state. Recently, club members—6.5 million of which are children—participated with other volunteer organizations to make the week of October 3-9 an opportunity for national community service. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Deal and was not reported by a House committee.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #31, October 22, 1999.



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